

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124394

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP, IZ

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ARMS SALE TO IRAQ

REFERENCE: MADRID 3447

1. APPRECIATE GOS CONSULTATION REFLECTED REFTEL.
2. SINCE US HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IRAQ AND BECAUSE OF RESULTING STATUTORY LIMITATIONS, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD WE AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED SALE OF RECOIL-LESS RIFLES TO IRAQ. IN CONVEYING US VIEW, EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH GOS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND STRESS POLITICAL FACTORS THAT OPERATE AGAINST SUCH A SALE TO IRAQ, DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING IN PRESENTING ARGUMENTS THAT WILL BE MOST CONVINCING TO GOS:

A. SINCE THE MID-1960'S, IRAQ HAS BECOME ALMOST WHOLLY DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN

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COUNTRIES FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF WHICH IRAQ HAS PURCHASED OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS SINCE 1958. SINCE 1967 SEVERAL AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED WHEREBY USSR FURNISHED IRAQ WITH SIZABLE INVENTORY OF MODERN ARMS.

B. THE CLOSE IRAQI/ SOVIET MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WAS AGAIN UNDERSCORED BY THE SIGNING OF THE APRIL 9, 1972 TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

C. THE INCREASING SUPPLY OF SOVIET ARMS, EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICIANS TO IRAQ HAS BECOME OF MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE STABILITY OF MODERATE REGIMES IN THE GULF AND THE PENINSULA SUCH AS KUWAIT AND IRAN. IRAQI INCURSION INTO KUWAIT ON MARCH 20, AND ATTEMPTED ARMS SMUGGLING INTO PAKISTAN ARE EXAMPLES OF IRAQI ACTIONS. ROGERS

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